

Appl. No. 09/870,010
Amdt. Dated March 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 3, 2005

Attorney Docket No.83300.0003
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hidaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,782,402). Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention teaches a system of managing image data in a network. (*See Abstract*). In particular, claim 1 teaches the network system having an image input device and an image forming device which includes storage sections for storing image data inputted by the image input device. At least one of the image input device and the image forming device are connected to the network. Moreover the network system having a client computer connecting to the network to manage the image data stored in the storage sections via the network.

Hidaka is generally directed toward a copy system having a copy server, and a scanner and a printer connected thereon. (*See Hidaka, Abstract; Figure 1*). According to Hidaka, the copy server may be a dedicated computer or a general personal computer. (*See Hidaka, Col. 10, Lines 6-9*). The scanner is connected to the copy server via a SCSI interface. (*See Hidaka, Figure 1; Col. 10, Line 32-36*). The printer is connected to the copy server via a centronics interface. (*See Hidaka, Figure 1; Col. 10, Line 36-42*). The copy server is connected to the network via a communication device. (*See Hidaka, Figure 1; Col. 10, Line 25-31*). The copy server having an image file area for storing image files therein. (*See Hidaka, Figure 1; Col. 10, Line 52-54*).

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Applicant respectfully submits Hidaka cannot anticipate independent claim 1 because Hidaka fails to teach or suggest the limitation, "at least one of the image input device and the image forming device being connected to the network" as required by claim 1. Present claim 1 is directed to an image forming device (printer) and an image input device (scanner) connecting to the network. Accordingly each image forming device or image input device contains network connection apparatus therein. (*See Specification, Page 3, Line 21-22*). Whereas Hidaka teaches the image forming device (printer) and the image input device (scanner) connecting to a copy server, and the copy server connecting to the network via a single network connecting apparatus (communication device). (*See Hidaka, Figure 1*). Accordingly Hidaka cannot anticipate independent claim 1 of present invention.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits Hidaka cannot anticipate independent claim 1 because Hidaka fails to teach or suggest the limitation, "an image forming device including storage means for storing image data inputted by the image input device" as required by claim 1. Hidaka teaches the storage mean as part of the copy server and not a part of the image forming device (printer). The Office states a storage mean is an essential part of an image forming device. (*See Office Action, Page 3, Line 1-3*). Present claim 1 is directed to an image forming device having a storage means, and an image input device connecting on a network. The storage means stores image data inputted by the image input device. Hidaka does not teach the image input device and image forming device connected directly or via a network. Accordingly Hidaka does not teach or suggest the storage mean storing image data inputted by the image input device.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits independent claim 1 is patentable over Hidaka. Independent claim 3 includes the limitations

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"connecting at least one of an image input device and an image forming device to the network" and "storing image data inputted by the image input device in storage means of the image forming device" is patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims are thus respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by Hidaka in view of Kurachi (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,436). Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection.

Kurachi is generally directed toward a system of managing print data. (See *Kurachi, Abstract*). Kurachi teaches a print managing system having a network, a network printer, and client apparatus such as a personal computer. (See *Kurachi, Figure 1; Col. 7, Lines 10-15*). Kurachi does not teach scanners or image input devices connecting to the network. Therefore, Kurachi fails to teach or suggest the limitations "at least one of the image input device and the image forming device being connected to the network" and "an image forming device including storage means for storing image data inputted by the image input device" as required by independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Kurachi cannot remedy the deficiency of Hidaka with regard to claim 1. Claim 2 depend from claim 1 cannot be rendered obvious by Hidaka in view Kurachi for at least the same foregoing reasons. Claim 3 includes the limitations "connecting at least one of an image input device and an image forming device to the network" and "storing image data inputted by the image input device in storage means of the image forming device" cannot be rendered obvious by Hidaka in view of Kurachi for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 4 depend

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from claim 3 cannot be rendered obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 3.
Withdrawal of rejection is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Kurachi fails to teach or suggest the limitation "the storage means comprises a binary data storage section for storing the image data as binary data and a text data storage section for storing text data converted from the binary data by the converter" as required by claim 2. The present invention discloses converting image data to text data for system management. Moreover, the present invention discloses an OCR converter, or optical character reader converter, may be used as the converter. (*See Specification, Page 7, Line 28 – Page 8, Line 4*). Whereas Kurachi teaches converting image data to rough image data by reducing the size of the image or quality of the images. (*See Kurachi, Col. 2, Lines 59-63*). Accordingly Kurachi fails to teach or suggest converting the image data into text data as required by claim 2.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits claim 2 is patentable over Hidaka and Kurachi. Claim 4 includes the limitations "the character image is stored in two data formats of binary data and text data, the text data being made by converting the binary data" is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 2. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims are thus respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

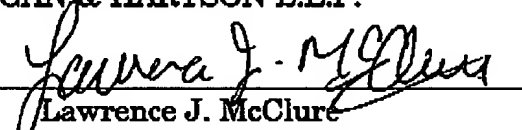
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6810 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: March 28, 2005

By:


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